

PROCEEDINGS
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THE STATUS OF THE MILLIPED *LASIOLOATHUS*
VIRGINICUS, WITH NOTES ON *SCYTONOTUS*
GRANULATUS

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In 1943 (Journ. Wash. Acad. Sci., 33(10): 318-320) Mr. H. F. Loomis described *Lasiolathus virginicus* as a new genus and species of milliped. Although mature specimens were lacking, he felt that certain characters shown by 7th instar larvae justified the proposal of the new names. The type locality for *L. virginicus* is the vicinity of Panorama, at Thornton Gap, in the Blue Ridge, Page-Rappahannock counties, Virginia. In addition to many type specimens, Loomis also had material from Jonesville, Washington County, Tennessee. The only other reference to this form is also by Loomis (1944, Psyche, 51: 175); he mentioned immature specimens taken at Crittenden, Grant County, Kentucky, by Dr. V. E. Shelford. Thus, the species has been recorded from three localities in as many states, and mature specimens have never been collected.

I became interested in the *Lasiolathus* problem in 1947, when it became apparent that *L. virginicus* was one of the most abundant invertebrates in the vicinity of Clifton Forge, Alleghany County, Virginia. In shale regions, particularly, the form was extremely common; and I frequently discovered as many as fifty to a hundred on one log. These animals agreed well with Loomis's description and figure, and later I sent specimens to the describer for further confirmation of identity.

Investigation was stimulated by the fact that during the winter months I was able to secure rather large numbers *Scytonotus granulatus*, while that species was apparently replaced during the summer by "*Lasiolathus*." I obtained a large number of the latter at Clifton Forge and kept them in humus until the final moult (which began on October 13) was undergone.

The diagnostic characters for the genus and species stated by Loomis were degree of dorsal tuberculation, serration of the edges of the keels, setiferous condition of the tergites, and forward production of the keels of the second body segment. In the transformed males which I obtained, all of these characters lose their distinctness. The tubercules are lower and serrations of the keels become less pronounced. Finally, the male gonopods, which in the final analysis provide the most reliable

character, match perfectly with the figures of those of *Scytonotus granulatus* given by Cook and Cook (1895, Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci., 9, Pl. IV, Fig. 8) and by Williams and Hefner (1928, Bull. Ohio Biol. Surv., 4 (3): 111, fig. 12B).

It is apparent, therefore, that *Lasiolathus virginicus* Loomis 1943, becomes a synonym of *Scytonotus granulatus* (Say) 1821.

S. granulatus has been reported from the following states: New York, Pennsylvania, District of Columbia, and Virginia (Cook and Cook, *op. cit.* p. 241); Indiana and Minnesota (Bollman, 1893, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 46: 108, 184); North Carolina (Chamberlin, 1940, Canadian Entom., 72: 56); and from Tennessee and Kentucky (Loomis, *op. cit.*)—as *Lasiolathus*. I have records for West Virginia, thus the species is known to have a wide range over northeastern United States. For Virginia, I have distributional records, which may be of interest, as follows:

Alleghany County: Clifton Forge and vicinity; *Augusta County*: near Deerfield; *Bath County*: 7.2 miles SW of Millboro Springs; *Botetourt County*: 1.3 miles NW of Eagle Rock; *Montgomery County*: Elliston; *Fairfax County*: Great Falls; *Page County*: Thornton Gap; *Surry County*: Swan's Point Plantation, near Scotland.

At Clifton Forge, where I am familiar with the habits of *granulatus*, it can be found in many sorts of habitats except very damp ones. It is the characteristic milliped of shale regions, being particularly common in deep ravines on shale mountains. During the night and morning, individuals are out in great numbers on the sides and ends of decaying logs. The species seems to congregate in groups for hibernation.